

## FREE HOMES FIGHT

House Enters Upon a Four Hours Tug-of-War.

MR. EDDY OF MINNESOTA

Champions the Measure Against Chairman Sherman

Washington, March 9.—The house devoted itself to routine business today. The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill went through its last stages in the adoption of the finance committee report, and the remainder of the day was consumed in the consideration of the senate amendments to the Indian appropriation bill. The substitute for the senate provision regarding the opening of the Uncompahgre reservation was knocked out on a point of order, and the amendment goes back to conference. The desire of the conferees to non-concur in the senate free homestead clause encountered bitter opposition, and an arrangement was made whereby four hours were to be devoted to debate a proposition to concur submitted by Mr. Eddy of Minnesota. Mr. Sherman, chairman of the Indian committee, declared that the free homestead provision would cost the government \$35,000,000. He desired to eliminate it from the bill, and has the support of the secretary of the interior.

**THE HOUSE IN DETAIL.**  
In the house today a bill was passed extending the time within which the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad may construct a branch through the Indian Territory.

Mr. Lacey (Rep., Iowa) asked unanimous consent that the house disagree to the senate amendment to the bill granting general right of way through Alaska to railroads and tramways. Some debate followed.

Mr. Moody (Rep., Mass.) insisted that the house should have an opportunity to vote on the fisheries amendment and Mr. Lacey (Rep., Cal.) wanted similar assurances regarding the homestead provision in the bill.

The amendments were finally non-concurred in and conference agreed to.

When the clerk of the senate announced that the senate had passed without amendment the national defense bill a wave of applause swept over the floor and the galleries.

The conference report of the legislative, executive and judicial bill was agreed to without division. This report was a compromise agreement between the two houses and the bill goes to the president.

**INDIAN BILL AMENDMENTS.**  
Upon motion of Mr. Sherman (Rep., N. Y.), chairman of the committee on Indian affairs, the house went into committee of the whole to consider the senate amendments to the Indian appropriation bill.

Mr. Sherman asked upon behalf of his committee that all amendments save three be non-concurred in. The other three amendments related to the opening of the Uncompahgre reservation, the amendment for the ratification of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache treaties and the free homestead amendment.

With regard to the first of these he said the conferees desired to propose as a substitute for the senate amendment the provision in the last Indian bill (which was vetoed), permitting the leasing of the mineral lands in the Uncompahgre reservation. It was desired to concur in the senate amendment ratifying the treaties and to non-concur in the free homestead amendment.

Mr. Sherman's request was agreed to, excepting that relating to the compensation for the commission engaged in the sale of the Puyallup Indian reservation, to which Mr. Lewis (Dem., Wash.) offered an amendment.

Mr. Lewis proposed to amend the bill prohibiting the alienation of these Indian lands within a period of ten years. He subsequently withdrew it, finding that it was subject to a point of order, and the original amendment, with the others, was non-concurred in.

When the amendment relating to the opening of the Uncompahgre reservation was reached, with the amendment agreed upon by the conferees to permit the leasing of the mineral lands, Mr. King (Dem., Utah) made a point of order against the amendment offered by the conferees to the senate amendment.

After a long debate, Mr. Hepburn (Rep., Iowa) was in the chair, sustained Mr. King's point of order to the conferees substitute for the senate amendment.

Mr. Shafroth (Pop., Cal.) thereupon moved to concur in the senate amendment.

First, lands ceded to the government by Indians to be disposed of by the government. There were 14,000,000 acres of these lands, upon which the government still owed \$12,500,000.

Second, lands purchased of the Indians were to be reimbursed upon the sale of the land to the settlers. These lands aggregated 15,000,000 acres and cost \$25,000,000. The amendment would compel the government to pay the Indians for lands turned over free of cost to settlers and thus commit the government to a policy which in future would cost the government many millions more. There were many other Indian reservations with an acreage of 12,500,000, which might be opened to homestead settlement.

Mr. Sherman read a letter from Secretary of the Interior Elias setting forth these facts. While expressing sympathy with the free homestead of the country, the letter opposed the free homestead clause, saying in effect that it would be the taxing of the entire people for the benefit of the few.

**MR. EDDY DEFENDS FLYNN.**  
Mr. Eddy (Rep., Minn.) who advocated the free home clause, made a vigorous speech in support of it. He referred to the beneficial results of the general homestead act of 1862, under which a million happy homes had been built up in this country. When the Indian reservations were ceded to the government they became part of the public domain, but when thrown open to settlement the settler was required to pay \$125 per acre. This burden imposed upon the settler, time had shown, was more than he was able to bear, and year after year congress had extended the time of payment, as it was proposed to do in the house provision for which Mr. Eddy was speaking.

It was proposed to substitute this free home provision, which he referred to as the Oklahoma free home bill, passed largely through the agency of Delegate Flynn. Mr. Steele (Rep., Ind.) asked him if Mr. Flynn had not been beaten after securing this great boon to the Oklahoma settlers.

"He was," answered Mr. Eddy, "but he ran one thousand miles of his ticket, and if you do not adopt this amendment and redeem the pledge made in the Republican party platform, many of you will be left at home at the next election."

Mr. Eddy said that much opposition had been fomented against this proposition by

## SYRUP OF FIGS



ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50 cent bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

**CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
LOUISVILLE, KY. NEW YORK, N.Y.

ment. The motion was contested by Mr. Lacey (Rep., Iowa) who thought the conferees should be allowed to fix up a provision which would permit the allotment of lands on the reservation to be opened to leases. These valuable deposits should not be allowed to fall into the hands of speculators. The house had overwhelmingly endorsed this position at the extra session.

**A DIGRESSION TO COTTON.**

At this point Mr. Wilson (Dem., Miss.) got the floor, and under the latitude allowed for debate in committee answered a speech made some time ago by Mr. Dingley, contrasting the condition of the cotton industry in the north and south.

On that occasion Mr. Dingley, he said, had spoken of the possible necessity of a constitutional amendment to regulate the hours of labor so as to remove the disadvantage under which northern operatives, with their shorter hours of labor, suffered.

The talk of such an amendment Mr. Williams said, was absurd, and he was forced to the conclusion that the purpose of Mr. Dingley's speech was either to arouse the southern operatives to strikes as a compensation to the northern manufacturers or to create hatred in the north against the cotton operatives of the south.

Mr. Williams read letters from many southern cotton mills explaining the advantages they possessed over their northern rivals.

Mr. Moody (Rep., Mass.) replied to Mr. Williams recounting the condition of New England mill operatives and the code of laws enacted for their protection. He did not believe New England cotton factories would go down before their southern competitors, but if they did the people of New England, taking inspiration from their granite rocks, and the cold cruelty of their east winds, would find a way to work out their salvation.

He commended the labor laws of Massachusetts to the people of the southern states. The debate then drifted back to the motion of Mr. Shafroth to concur in the senate amendment. It was finally defeated.

The vote was equivalent to non-concurrence.

**FREE HOMES AMENDMENT.**

When the free homestead amendment was reached, Mr. Eddy (Rep., Minn.) moved concurrence. As many members desired to debate this proposition, an agreement was made by which four hours were to be given for debate.

Mr. Sherman, who led in the opposition to the amendment, said that it involved directly and indirectly an appropriation greater than congress had just made for the national defense. It involved, he said, a direct appropriation of \$12,000,000; an indirect appropriation of \$25,000,000; and a future expenditure of probably \$30,000,000.

The lands which this amendment proposed to turn over to settlers under the homestead laws free of cost were of two classes:

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Told in Fewest Words

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Abraham P. Kilne, a pioneer threshing machine manufacturer, is dead in Chicago, aged 71.

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The suspension of Mapleson & Bankman, brokers, was announced on the New York stock exchange yesterday.

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Prince Potietowski is at the head of a company which proposes, within a year, to bring 10,000 horse-power from the waters now running to waste on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains, in Alpine, Amador and Calaveras counties, by means of an electrical line 100 miles in length to San Francisco.

It is announced at Omaha that the Union Pacific is now in control of the Oregon Short Line, which carries with it the control of the Oregon Railway and Navigation company. It is also announced that the Union Pacific will secure control of the Union Pacific, Denver and Gulf from Joliet to Denver.

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**GOLD DUST**

Washing Powder

finishes her work as fresh and bright as her house is clean.

Largest package—greatest economy.

The N. K. Fairbank Company, Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Boston, Philadelphia.

steamer Fern as quarters for Captain Sigbee and others.

Commander Converse of the Montgomery is a high authority on explosives, and his advice will be useful to the court of inquiry into the loss of the Maine.

After firing the usual salute and being saluted in return, the Montgomery was moored in the principal harbor near the wreck of the Maine, and in the center of a circle of Spanish ships.

Later in the day Commander Converse received the Associated Press correspondent on board the cruiser, though he had nothing to tell him beyond the facts already sent.

Captain Sigbee, Lieutenant Commander Walworth and Ensign Pawson will occupy quarters on the Montgomery. The Montgomery is as trim and neat as possible. Nobody is allowed on board without permission, but nobody is excluded if business or courtesy demands the visit. There is no intimation of the length of the cruiser